

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PARTI QUEBECOIS EXHULTS OVER SUCCESS OF FUND-
RAISING CAMPAIGN

1. OVER 5000 PQ MILITANTS GATHERED IN QUEBEC CITY OVER THE WEEKEND TO HEAR THE RESULTS OF THE PARTY'S TENTH ANNUAL FUND RAISING DRIVE. AMID MUCH HOOPLA, PARTY LEADERS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CAMPAIGN HAD GENERATED OVER DOLS 2,000,000 FAR SURPASSING THE PARTY'S ANNOUNCED TARGET OF DOLS 1,300,000. PRIME MINISTER LEVESQUE, VISIBLY ECSTATIC, CALLED THE RESULTS "MIRACULOUS," AND "AN EXTRAORDINARY POLITICAL PHENOMENON UNIQUE IN THE WESTERN WORLD."

2. ALTHOUGH THE REUNION HAD NO OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OTHER THAN TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THE FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS MORE ONE OF A POLITICAL CONVENTION WITH RIDING ORGANIZATIONS CHEERING AND EXULTING RAUCOUSLY AND WAVING SIGNS AS RESULTS FROM EACH RIDING WAS ANNOUNCED. IN THE END IT WAS REVEALED THAT EACH RIDING BUT ONE (DUPLESSIS, WHERE THE STRIKE AT THE IRON ORE CO OF SEPT ILES IS HAVING SERIOUS ECONOMIC EFFECTS ALONG THE WHOLE NORTH COAST) HAD EITHER MET OR SURPASSED ITS OBJECTIVE. IN ALL, OVER DOLS 1,800,000 WAS RAISED FROM INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
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AVERAGING DOLS 21.00 A PIECE, WHILE THE BALANCE CAME FROM RENEWALS OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP CARDS. OF THIS, THE BULK WILL BE USED FOR THE PARTY'S HOUSEKEEPING EXPENSES OR WILL BE RETURNED TO THE RIDINGS AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. DOLS 150,000 WILL BE PLACED IN THE PARTY'S REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN WAR CHEST, BRINGING THAT UP TO A HEALTHY TOTAL OF DOLS 270,000. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE CAMPAIGN FUND WOULD BE USED ENTIRELY

FOR THE REFERENDUM, AND NOT FOR AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. PARTY MEMBERSHIP WAS ANNOUNCED TO BE JUST UNDER 200,000, OF WHICH 145,000 WERE FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS.

3. ESPECIALLY NOTABLE AMID THE GENERAL FERVOR WAS THE HERO'S WELCOME ACCORDED FINANCE MINISTER PARIZEAU, WHO IS CURRENTLY BEING LIONIZED FOR HIS SUCCESS OVER THE SALES TAX ISSUE. PARIZEAU WAS TREATED TO A TUMULTUOUS OVATION, WAS PARADED AROUND THE AUDITORIUM ON THE SHOULDERS OF HIS AND HAD A SONG (" A MAN LIKE YOU") DEDICATED TO HIM BY LISSOME CHANSONNIERE RENEE CLAUDE.

4. COMMENT: BACK IN THE COLD DAYS OF MARCH AND EARLY APRIL, WHEN PQ FORTUNES WERE AT A LOW EBB AND THE PARTY WAS SLIPPING THE POLLS, IT WAS APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT A STRONG SHOWING IN THE FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN WOULD GIVE THE PARTY A NEEDED SHOT IN THE ARM. AS A RESULT, OVER 14,000 MILITANTS JOINED IN THE CANVASSING EFFORTS AND THE RESULT HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE, PARTICULARLY FOR A PARTY INPOWER WITH NO ELECTION IN THE OFFING. WITH THE TWIN SUCCESSES OF THE FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN AND THE SALES TAX CONTROVERSY, PARTY MORALE IS CLEARLY STRONG. THE FUND-RAISING DRIVE , MOREOVER, HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY IS AS STRONG AND COMMITTED AS EVER, AND IS FIRMLY IN PLACE AND READY FOR THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. BOSWELL

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